

THE KHERSON FORTRESS

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Self-edited

The Kherson Fortress is a historical monument that is significant not only for Kherson, but the whole of the Black Sea coast of Ukraine.

The construction of the fortress began on September 8, 1778, by the architect Michael Vetoshkin with the assistance of Ivan Hannibal and Johann Herman. The head of the project was Prince Grigory Potemkin. In 1787, the fortification was finished; the event was timed to Empress Catherine II's arrival in the city. The Fortress met all the demands with regard to the organization of fortifications of its time – there was a powerful earth mound poured around, a moat was dug. The special shape of the fortress allowed soldiers to fire from any angle.

People dug tunnels and underground passages in the event of prolonged sieges in the cellars under the fortress. Also, they built shops for provisions, a gunpowder cellar, an artillery workshop and other.

There were several potential threats to the fortress, but it was not used in any of the battles, and September 22, 1835 by order of Nicholas II, the territory was donated to the city. During this period, a new page in the history of the fortress began. Most buildings were bought out by rich Khersonites and became private houses in the central part of the city.

What can be seen in the fortress today? Of course, only «The Moscow (Northern) Gate" and "The Ochakov (Western) Gate" of the fortress have survived. The buildings have been converted into restaurants. Also, a few fragments of the moat and one of the earliest buildings of Kherson fortress have been preserved: The former Arsenal is one of the buildings of the city jail today.

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